

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 30, 2006**

1. **TakomaParkMD.gov:** The new City website is now live. Comments and feedback will be welcome - please email them to webmaster@takomaparkmd.gov. (*CityTV*)
2. **Public Hearing (Ward 3):** Traffic calming petitions have been received and certified for the 6800 block of Allegheny Avenue and for Sligo Mill Road. Public hearings on the requests are tentatively scheduled for March 13. (*City Clerk*)
3. **New Day Laborer Site (Ward 6):** Takoma Park's temporary day laborer site on New Hampshire Avenue has moved a half block to the side of 6500 New Hampshire Avenue along Sheridan Street. CASA of Maryland continues to operate the site. CASA and Prince George's County have been working to find a permanent site in nearby Prince George's County, where workers could wait inside and where classes in English and job skills could be offered to those not hired on a particular day. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
4. **State Funds Requested for Gym:** Delegate Peter Franchot and Senator Ida Ruben are requesting a State Bond Bill (a type of matching grant) of \$1,000,000 towards the cost of a new gymnasium for the Takoma Park Community Center. Delegates Sheila Hixson and Gareth Murray are co-sponsoring the bond bill request. Hearings on the bond bill requests are likely to take place in early March, with decisions made in May. Please let our District 20 Delegation know that we appreciate their support! (*Community & Government Liaison*)
5. **Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** The City is holding a second Enterprise Zone meeting to reach out to businesses in the area of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard at 9:30 AM on February 7th. In response to the concerns expressed by businesses at the focus groups, this meeting will initiate the process to create a business watch program aimed at reducing crime and a business association to better advocate for the concerns of business owners and foster information sharing. Titled 'Eyes on the Street,' the meeting is for business and property owners in the commercial centers along New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard from Eastern Avenue to Carroll Avenue. The meeting will be held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. (*Housing and Community Development*)
6. **Affordable Housing (Ward 6):** Community Preservation Development Corporation (CPDC) and Jair Lynch Company had their first meeting with the residents of Hampshire Towers on Thursday, February 3, 2006 to give them a brief overview of the plans that they have for the building. Since signing an agreement with the Hampshire Towers Tenant Association, CPDC and the Jair Lynch Company will be renovating both towers and converting one to condominiums. The other will remain as rental. The projected completed date is sometime in 2008. Any questions regarding the plans can be directed to Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. **Afternoon Addition:** Afternoon Addition has had a very successful second half of the school year. We have two new program for the kids to take part in, "Be A Star" a theater/performing arts club for grades 3 and up and a "Create your Own Web Page" in conjunction with the Takoma Park Library, for grades 5-8. There are many more activities being planned coming this spring. *(Recreation)*

8. **Construction Update:** TRG Construction, the contractor working on Phase II of the Community Center, will be working in the Police Lobby in the coming week. Work includes cutting a new door from the lobby into the stairwell that goes to Level 2 (the Community Center level). Once the new door is operational, the exterior door to the left of the main Police entrance will no longer need to be propped open. Thanks to all for being patient while construction continues at the Community Center! *(Community & Government Liaison)*

9. **Council Meeting Webstreaming:** Trainers will be in Takoma Park Monday & Tuesday Feb. 6 & 7 working with Clerk, Cable, IT and Web Staff from Granicus on plans to webstream and index City Council meetings. Current plans are to go live with wwebstreaming of Council meetings beginning Monday, March 6. *(CityTV)*

10. **New Equipment:** City TV has new equipment which can be used as an assisted listening device, and as a tool for live translation. *(CityTV)*

11. **Police News and Officers in Training:** Ofc. Tom Black has been released from field training and is working independently as a patrol officer on Squad One. Ofc. Black and Cpl. Rodriguez are attending a one-day hand combat training with Montgomery County Police. Capt. Ed Coursey attended one-day operational security training held by the Office of Domestic Preparedness for the Homeland Security Department. Det/Cpl. John is attending forensic digital photography training. *(Police)*

12. **Recruiting Officers:** For the Sunday dispatch entrance exam, 10 of the 19 scheduled came to the exam. Of the nine who took the test, six passed and will be scheduled for oral interviews next Friday, Feb. 10. An entrance exam for persons interested in becoming police officers will be offered on Sat., Feb 11. Persons interested in participating should contact the Recruiting Team through Ofc. Paula Gaskin (301/891-7101, ext. 5604), Det/Sgt. Collington, 301/891-7110, or Cpl. Jackson, 301/891-7130. *(Police)*

13. **Other Events in PD:** This morning Crossing Guard Bernice Toler spoke about walking safety to the two- and three-year-old class at Morgan Day Care Center (Ward 1).Cpl. Smith of the COP Team has been working on details related to the Day Laborer site on New Hampshire Avenue (Ward 3) and assisting criminal investigations in operations related to crime trends in specific neighborhoods. *(Police)*

14. **Traffic Enforcement:** More than 80 traffic stops were made throughout the city with about 86 percent resulting in citations. Two 17-year-old juveniles from Silver Spring were arrested Monday after they fled from a traffic stop and bailed out of the car they were driving, which proved to be stolen from Montgomery County. *(Police)*

15. **Crime Blotter (Ward 3):** Two men were arrested early Thursday, charged with numerous counts related to a robbery on Wednesday evening at 4th and Orchard.

Detectives continue the investigation of that incident, an armed carjacking on Feb. 1 on Westmoreland, a Jan. 31 armed robbery in the 6400 block of Eastern and an attempted robbery in the 6900 block of New Hampshire that same night. Detectives are working with Washington, D.C. investigators. *(Police)*

16. Vehicle Thefts (Ward 3): Theft from auto continues as a problem in the Victor 3 police beat: seven reports were taken in January in which vehicle windows or door locks were broken in attempts to take property. Affected streets include Poplar, Gude, Cockerille, Sligo Mill and Fifth Avenues. (Ward 3) Auto theft remains a concern in the New Hampshire Avenue corridor with seven reports taken from Wildwood, Elson, 13th, Holton and New Hampshire Avenue (Ward 6). Residents are reminded that steering wheel locking devices are available at the Police Department for \$10. *(Police)*

17. Emergency Assistance Program (City-wide): Please remember that Takoma Park has an Emergency Assistance Program that is administered by the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington. All donations to this program are submitted to this local social service agency so that it will assist Takoma Park residents in need. For further information about the program, please contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

18. Police Job Fair: Chief Creamer and Cpl. Roberto Rodriguez made a presentation on law enforcement jobs Wednesday morning at the Latin American Youth Center in D.C., speaking to 25 young adults in a job-skills preparation class. Several of the class members had expressed interest in police careers. *(Police)*